

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-05 HUD-01 EB-07 COME-00

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAM-01 /070 W

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R 020902Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9619

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINR, IR

SUBJ: FALL OF MARDOM PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: TEHRAN 10217

SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS DECEMBER 29 ANNOUNCED OUSTER OF
MARDOM PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL NASSER AMERI. NEWSPAPER
ACCOUNTS STATE AMERI WAS FORCED TO RESIGN DUE TO PARTY
CENTRAL COMMITTEE CRITICISM OF HIS AUTOCRATIC WAYS AND HIS
ATTACKS ON CONDUCT OF RECENT LOCAL ELECTIONS. REAL REASON,
ACCORDING TO HIGH MARDOM OFFICIAL, IS DISSATISFACTION OF SHAH OVER
RECENT STRONG MARDOM ATTACKS ON BUDGET BILL AND CAUSTIC REMARKS
AMERI ALLEGEDLY MADE REGARDING SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION.
PRESS TIPS MARDOM WHIP HOLAKU RAMBOD TO SUCCEED AMERI.
END SUMMARY.

1. Farsi and Foreign Language Press December 29 announced
resignation of Mardom Party Secretary General Nasser Ameri.
During his 18 months in office Ameri, who had accepted
post reluctantly, first purged and then gave appearance
of unity to party, crowning his achievements with success-
ful Mardom Party Congress (see RefTel). According to
newspaper accounts Ameri was persuaded to resign by Mardom
Central Committee which accused him of abrasive attitude
toward other party leaders and of holding party up to
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PUBLIC RIDICULE THROUGH HIS ATTACKS ON RESULTS AND PROCE-

DURES OF RECENT LOCAL ELECTIONS. AMERI WAS REPORTEDLY TAKEN ABACK BY THESE CRITICISMS AND IMMEDIATELY TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION AT SUGGESTION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

2. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM HIGH-LEVEL MARDOM PARTY OFFICIAL THAT REAL REASON FOR DISMISSAL WAS SHAH'S DISPLEASURE WITH AMERI'S RECENT ATTACKS ON PERFORMANCE OF HOVEYDA GOVERNEMTNNA AND HIS PLANNED SPEECH IN MAJLES STRONGLY CRITIZING PROPOSED BUDGET FOR COMING YEAR. PURPOSE OF EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF INCIDENT, ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE, WAS TO MAKE EXAMPLE OF AMERI FOR OTHERS WHO MIGHT GO TOO FAR IN CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT.

3. FRONT-RUNNER FOR AMERI'S POSITION IS HEAD OF MARDOM PARTY FACTION IN MAJLES, HOLAKU RAMBOD, WHO IS MOST POWERFUL MAN NOW ACTIVE IN MARDOM PARTY AND HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITH PARTY RANK-AND-FILE.

4. COMMENT: WE DOUBT RAMBOD WANTS JOB ALTHOUGH HE MAY FEEL HE HAS TO TAKE IT. EXPERIENCE OF TWO MOST RECENT INCUMBENTS, AMERI AND ALI NAQI KANI, HAS MADE CLEAR THAT MARDOM SECRETARY GENERALSHIP IS EXPOSED POSITION WHICH DOES NOT HELP A POLITICAL CAREER. IN ADDITION, RAMBOD IS PRIMARILY A BEHING-THE-SCENES OPERATOR.

MIKLOS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, GOVERNMENT BUDGET, PARTY MEETINGS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN00006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750002-0373
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750181/aaaactkf.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TEHRAN 10217
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FALL OF MARDOM PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, PINR, IR, MARDON PARTY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006